

July 2017



THE CONCH

www.conch.org.au

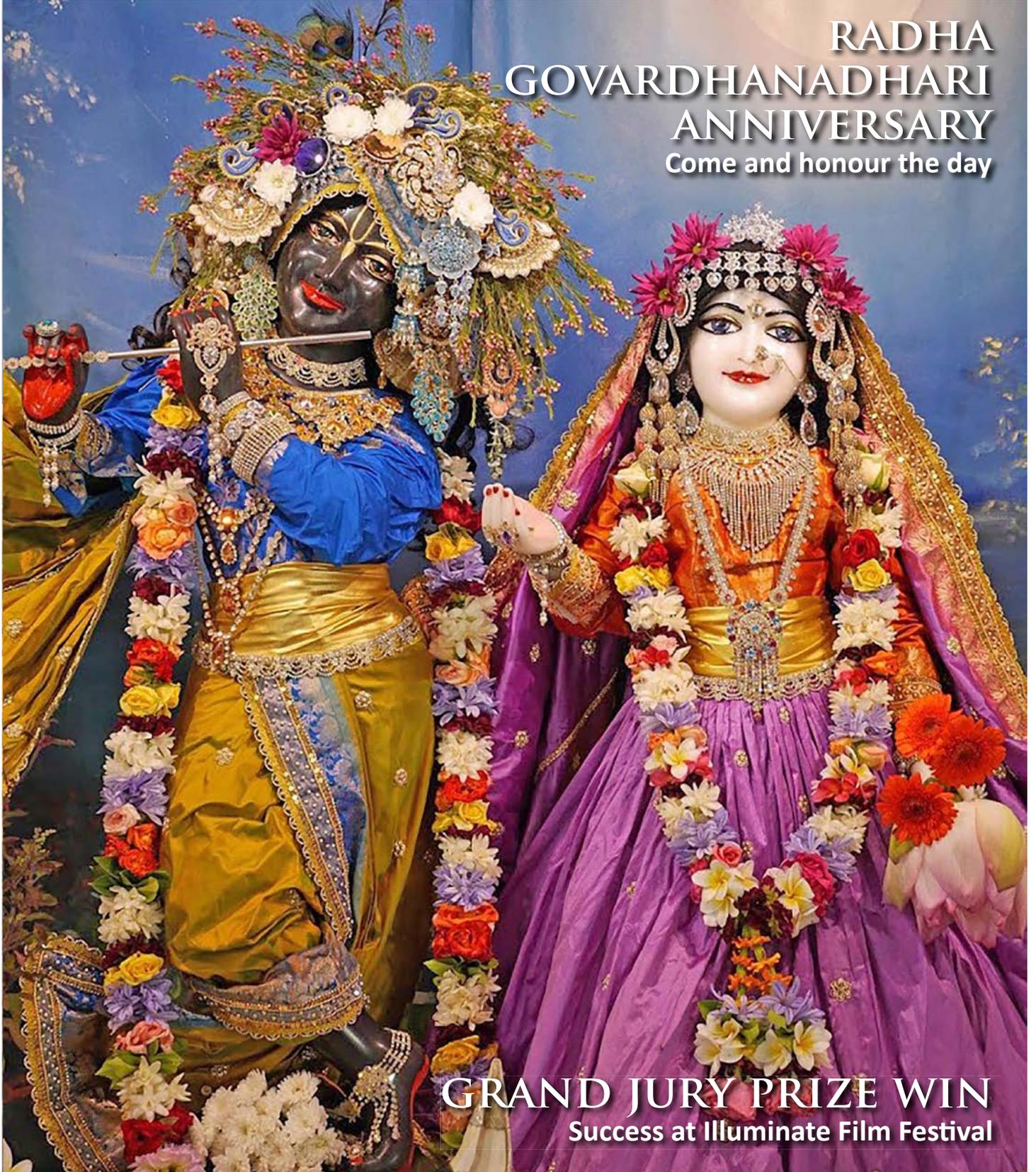
“Lord Sri Krishna and Arjuna blew their celestial conches to rally and enthuse the devotees.”

NEWSLETTER
New Govardhana Community



krishnafarm.com

Dedicated to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness



**RADHA
GOVARDHANADHARI
ANNIVERSARY**
Come and honour the day

GRAND JURY PRIZE WIN
Success at Illuminate Film Festival

COMMUNITY NEWS + SUPERSOUL SEMINARS + WOMEN'S MINISTER REPORT

SRILA SANATANA GOSWAMI

By Ambika devi dasi

The six Goswamis of Vrindavana were each personally initiated and instructed by Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, and it is through them that His teachings are now available to all.

Sanatana Goswami was a highly respected minister in the service of the Mohammedan government. After humbly surrendering his life to Lord Chaitanya, he requested the Governor, Nawab Hussein Shah, to be permitted to dedicate himself to spiritual life. The Nawab denied him and imprisoned Sanatana Goswami when he refused to come to work.

Through bribery of the jailer, Sanatana Goswami was freed and travelled to Varanasi, where he met Lord Chaitanya.

ISKCON's Founder-Acharya, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada explains that it was not wrong of him to bribe the jailer, since his only purpose was to be in a position where he could give his life to Krishna. He quotes '*nirbandhe Krishna sambandha*' ... that is, everything is auspicious if it is done for the service of the Lord.

Lord Chaitanya then instructed Sanatana Goswami on the constitution of the soul, devotional service, the Lord's expansions, forms and incarnations, and Krishna's Vrindavana pastimes.

Armed with these realisations and with a sincere desire to please the Lord, Sanatana Goswami departed for Vrindavana, where he lived austere, sleeping under a different tree every night, begging for a little sustenance daily, and performing various important services.

Sanatana Goswami wrote devotional books from Lord Chaitanya's teachings to him, he uncovered holy places in Vrindavana that had become lost, he took care of visiting Vaishnavas, he established the great temple of Madan Mohan, he instructed devotees on the science of Krishna consciousness, and at the same time he was a friend to all, both the gentle and the rough. He was loved by everyone.

His auspicious Disappearance Day is celebrated on 9 July. It coincides with the first day of the Chaturmasa, the four months of the rainy season in India. To honour this, we fast on the first month from spinach, from yoghurt in the second month, from milk in the third and from *urad dahl* in the fourth. 🙏

Excerpted from Caitanya-caritamrta

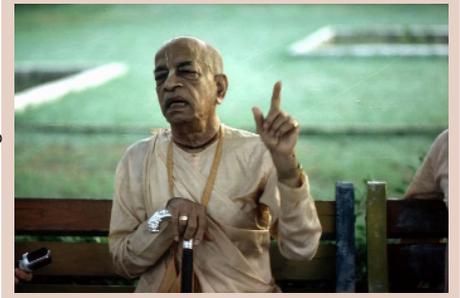


Photo: krishna.org

ISKCON Founder-Acharya His Divine Grace
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

If a devotee at all wants to cleanse his heart, he must chant and hear the glories of the Lord, Sri Krishna (*srnvatam sva-kathah krsnah*). This is a simple process. Krishna Himself will help cleanse the heart because He is already seated there. Krishna wants to continue living within the heart, and the Lord wants to give directions, but one has to keep his heart as clean as Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu kept the Gundica temple.

The devotee therefore has to cleanse his heart just as the Lord cleansed the Gundica temple. In this way one can be pacified and enriched in devotional service. If the heart is filled with straw, grains of sand, weeds or dust (in other words, *anyabhilasa-purna*), one cannot enthrone the Supreme Personality of Godhead there. The heart must be cleansed of all material motives brought about through fruitive work, speculative knowledge, the mystic yoga system and so many other forms of so-called meditation. The heart must be cleansed without ulterior motive.

As Srila Rupa Goswami says: *anyabhilasa-sunyam jnana-karmady-anavrtam*. In other words, there should not be any external motive. One should not attempt material upliftment, understanding the Supreme by speculative knowledge, fruitive activity, severe austerity and penance, and so on. All these activities are against the natural growth of spontaneous love of Godhead. As soon as these are present within the heart, the heart should be understood to be unclean and therefore unfit to serve as Krishna sitting place.

Caitanya-caritamrta Madhya-lila 12.135



Photo: alchetron.com

Krishna appears to Sanatana Goswami.

SRI SRI RADHA GOVARDHANA- DHARI INSTALLATION ANNIVERSARY

By *Ajita dasa*

The New Govardhana farm was purchased in May 1977 for \$80,000. A year later the temple construction began with its three altars. The middle altar was to become the residence of Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari, the transcendental lifter of the hill that fulfills all desires.

The devotees decided to install the Deity form of Radha Govardhanadhari as soon as the temple could receive Them. Unfortunately, to design, carve and ship such a wondrous form of God required a lot of time. Imagine India and communications in 1977 ...

Hari Sauri dasa decided to fly to Jaipur where the professional Deity sculptors (*sthapatis*) design and carve such forms of Krishna.

He arrived at a *sthapati's* workshop to place his order for New Govardhana. He saw a beautiful form of Radha and Krishna, who he felt would be perfect for Australia.

“Bad news”, says the *sthapati* with transcendental pride. “They have been pre-ordered, paid for and are ready for shipping to New Mayapur, France.”

Hari Sauri wanted the same Deities for New Govardhana, but time was running out. After much haggling, discussions and bribes the *sthapati* finally released the already carved Divine Couple to him. He finalised the payment and shipping on the spot. Meanwhile, the *sthapati* frantically began a replica of the exact same set for the original customer.

History confirms that this ‘client’ was not happy upon seeing the slightly modified version.

July 1979 was the time for the two installations of the Radha Krishna Deities for New Mayapur, France, and New Govardhana, Australia.

Many devotees attended the festival held at the newly constructed temple in Australia. Strawberry *halava* was one of the many preparations offered to Their Lordships on 15 July 1979 as



Photo: Courtesy of Ajita dasa

Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari when Krishna manifested His conchshell eyes.

a welcome feast. (Since then, more than half a million such preparations have been offered to Radha Govardhanadhari.)

The other installation took place in New Mayapur, France. Sri Sri Radha Govinda Madhava were installed and also received *halava* with Their first offering.

Now it's 2004, during our Deities 25th anniversary, and Hari Sauri is telling the assembled devotees about Their installation but, unknown to him, the ‘customer’ is also among the assembled devotees. Suddenly, the form of Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari flashes in her mind – 25 years ago in Jaipur, waiting to be shipped, to France.

All hell breaks loose – Hari Sauri and the ‘customer’ together on the same day, same time, same Deities, same temple, same story – but *now* the customer is his very own wife, Sitala devi dasi!

Hari Sauri had ‘kidnapped’ the Deities who were ready for France and only 25 years later the truth came out on Their anniversary day. Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari had previously arranged, some 20 years ago, for the thief and the designer to marry. Who says God doesn't have a sense of humour?

Another little known fact is that Govardhanadhari temporarily had conchshell eyes. Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari are very special Deities. Krishna is the lifter of the hill that fulfills all desires and He does indeed fulfill all desires of His dear servants, but He does so with a twist – as we have learned.

So please somehow serve Their Lordships and see how kind They are. Just beware of what you desire ... 🙏

THE ART OF LETTING GO

By Michael Olabode

Super Soul Retreats are weekends that consist of transformation seminars through transcendental wisdom. If you're looking for practical and authentic ways to enrich your relationships, master your emotions, expand your attraction, become a respected leader, forgive yourself, forgive others, discover your nature, overcome procrastination etc., these retreats are for you.

They are primarily based from knowledge of the *Vedas*, carefully blended with modern scientific research presented in a relevant



Photo: Courtesy Krishna Village

Michael Olabode will be presenting his 'Art of Letting Go' seminar series.

way with cutting-edge practical application.

Although uncommon, even among people in spiritual circles, this embodied wisdom contains universal principles about specific areas and aspects of life. If you align with them you can't

go wrong in the field you want to succeed in.

Please look out for more information being displayed for 'The Art of Letting Go' for the 15 July weekend, or contact Michael Olabode on: facebook.com/sacredinsight

HARE KRISHNA! FILM WINS JURY PRIZE FOR BEST PICTURE

By Krishnarupa devi dasi
Excerpted from iskconews.org

Documentary film *Hare Krishna!*, about the life and achievements of ISKCON Founder-Acharya A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, has won the coveted Jury Prize for Best Picture at Illuminate, the world's premier 'conscious film festival', which ran from 31 May to 4 June in Sedona, Arizona.

The audience erupted into applause when *Hare Krishna!* – subtitled 'The Mantra, the Movement and the Swami Who Started It All' – was announced as the winner out of nine US and world premiers.

Co-directors John Griesser [Yadubara dasa], Jean Griesser [Vishaka devi dasi] and Lauren Ross ascended the stage to accept the award. "We are simply stunned," said John. "We hope our film will go all over the world ... And we're just so appreciative that you have honored us like this and accepted us into your hearts. Thank you so much."

Jean later added that she was thrilled and encouraged the film was being so well-received by its intended

audience – the general public outside the ISKCON devotee world. She also thanked Srila Prabhupada 'for creating such a story with his life,' and the hardworking *Hare Krishna!* team including Lauren Ross, Jessica Heinrich, Krishna Sanchez, and Srivas Perla.

When *Hare Krishna!* was screened at the Mary D. Fisher theatre during the Illuminate Film Festival, tickets sold out in half an hour and it had to be shown a second time at the larger Sedona Performing Arts Center.

After the first screening, co-directors John and Jean Griesser and Lauren Ross participated in a Q&A. During the session, many audience members expressed their appreciation and said that they felt much more well-informed about the Hare Krishna Movement and its founder.

The session also included a *maha-mantra kirtana* led by Dasarath dasa and C.C. White that saw audience members dancing in the aisles.

Sandra De Castro Buffington, founding director of the Global Media Center for Social Impact at UCLA said, "She cried, laughed and was so engaged by the film she didn't want to end", according to Jean.

Meanwhile Illuminate's executive director Danette Wolpert has been an enthusiastic champion of the film since the beginning.



Photo: Courtesy iskconews.org

The 'Hare Krishna!' film, about the achievements and teachings of Srila Prabhupada, won Best Picture at Illuminate Film Festival.

COMMUNITY NEWS

By **Manjulali devi dasi**

A meeting was held at the temple on 17 June to inform the community of future developments at New Govardhana and to field any questions devotees had.

The following areas were discussed:

Twenty-five acres at the back of the amenities block have been cleared of camphor laurel and lantana for pasturing grounds for the young bullocks (aged between one and seven years old).

A new facility will be completed in six weeks and will serve as a *brahmacharini ashrama*, accommodating eight ladies. Each resident will have their own air-conditioned room, ensuite bathroom and access to verandahs. There will be a shared common room/lounge room (including kitchen) with large doors leading to a spacious, east-facing verandah. Behind the common room, there will be a laundry and undercover area for drying with storage facilities.

Photo: Jhulan devi dasi



The brahmacharini ashrama under construction.

Plans to build an administration building south of the White House are currently in council awaiting approval. At 400 sq m, it will house offices for the treasury, temple, Krishna Village, Bhakti Guest House and a conference room. It will also accommodate a gift shop, amenities, café and commercial kitchen that will provide *prasadam* for visitors. In addition, an attached gazebo will offer guests a magnificent view of Mt Warning.

This building will include reception for general enquiries and where visitors can check in/check out of the Bhakti Guesthouse. The aim of this project is to connect more people to New Govardhana.

We are now learning how to graft fruit trees at the 'Jarikhanda Nursery', where the public will be able to purchase fruit trees.

The new *goshalla* plans are also currently with council for approval. Fundraising will commence in the near future. Readers interested in fundraising, please contact Venugopal dasa and Ajita dasa.

Also discussed at the community meeting was the fact that roads are now sealed and work is completed.

Please respect the 20km/h speed limit *all* over the farm – with no exceptions. 🙏

GROW A GARDEN

By **Bhaktagana devi dasi**

After having retired last year when she had a mid-level heart attack, Mandakini devi dasi threw herself back into her roster service with her usual enthusiasm. Unfortunately, she has recently been bedridden for a number of weeks with a painful illness called shingles, often induced by stress. It may take her months to recover.

Having a lot of time to think about her situation and the causes of her stress, Mandakini is realising that Krishna is telling her that not only does she need to rest and recuperate, but also to change her lifestyle choices. Based on these realisations, she is now truly retiring from active, regular service.

When she first retired last year, there was some discussion by the *pujaris* on how they could show gratitude for her dedication to her service. One suggestion was to do something meaningful for her, but also to make her life easier.

After more discussion we found out that both she and her husband struggled with the upkeep of their garden. So it was suggested that we create a garden for her that was low maintenance, from native plants. Ajita dasa offered the service of some volunteers as a gesture of gratitude from the temple. Due to various reasons the plan did not come to fruition.

It would be lovely if we could help to manifest that original promise of a gift: a garden to enjoy, planted with contributions from different devotees expressing their appreciation for her service.

Nrsimhapali dasa will design the garden and purchase a variety of natives. Devotees who wish to participate can do so in two ways – they can donate a certain amount and a plant will be purchased to that value or they can choose a plant from a list and donate its cost. Donors are also welcome to plant their gift in her garden. Plants range from \$5 upwards, so they are very affordable.

I am overseeing the project and can be contacted regarding either donations or the list of plants. Donations may also be given directly to the treasurer, Ganga devi dasi, at the office.

Let's rally as a community to create a garden to show Mandakini how much we value her contribution. 🙏

Photo: Courtesy Bhaktagana devi dasi



L to R: Bhaktagana devi dasi and granddaughter Gwendolyn, Sri Hari Bhakti devi dasi and Mandakini devi dasi.

IMPROVING LITERACY

By Vrindaranya devi dasi

The Bhaktivedanta Swami Gurukula has recently implemented a program to help enhance some of the younger students' literacy skills. Both Indranila devi dasi and myself have volunteered two afternoons a week to spend time reading with a handful of students from Grade 1 through to Grade 4.

The program is aimed at students who require additional help with their general reading. Other goals

include enhancing the children's comprehension, expanding their vocabulary, as well as improving the pronunciation of individual words and sentences.

On a personal level, I have found it has been rewarding seeing the children improve from week to week, but also to see their enthusiasm for the reading session. Literacy and numeracy rates in Australian children have been declining to the point where State and Federal Governments are encouraging a variety of initiatives to improve these areas of learning. 🐚



Photo: Bhaktivedanta Gurukula, New Govardhana

Having fun enhancing literacy, with Vrindaranya devi dasi and young Sasi.

PANIHATI SNAPSHOTS



Photography: Trevor Gore

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The Conch is your community newsletter, and we invite you to submit articles for publication. Articles should be 300 words or less and supplied in MS Word via email to caroeditor@gmail.com. Photographs must be in JPG format. Please provide the name of the author and

the photographer. Anonymous submissions will not be published.

Deadline is the 12th of each month. Occasionally a submission could be held over to a later edition. All submissions will be edited, proofread and may be rejected without notice.

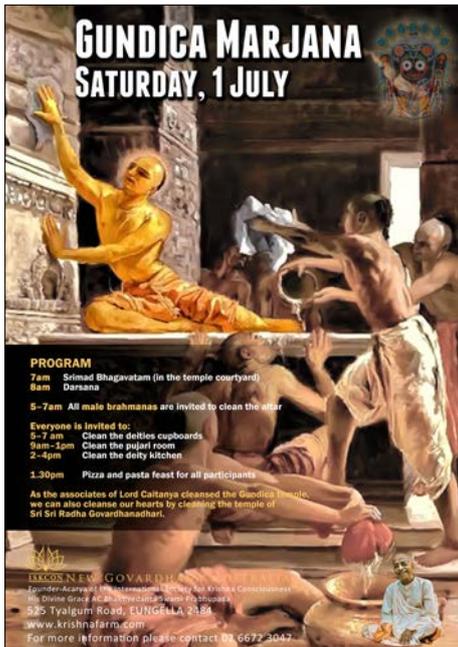


EDITORIAL BOARD:
Damodara Pandit dasa, Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP), Manjulali devi dasi.

LAYOUT AND GRAPHIC DESIGN:
Urvasi devi dasi and Jhulan devi dasi.

FOR ENQUIRIES, COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS
Contact: www.conch.org.au

UPCOMING EVENTS



GUNDICA MARJANA
SATURDAY, 1 JULY

PROGRAM
7am Srimad Bhagavatam (in the temple courtyard)
8am Darshan
5-7am All male brahmanas are invited to clean the altar

Everyone is invited to:
5-7 am Clean the deities cupboards
9am-1pm Clean the pujari room
2-4pm Clean the deity kitchen
1.30pm Pizza and pasta feast for all participants

As the associates of Lord Chaitanya cleansed the Gundica temple, we can also cleanse our hearts by cleaning the temple of Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari.

ISKCON NEW GOVARDHANA AUSTRALIA
525 Tyalgum Road, EUNGELLA 2484
www.krishnafarm.com
For more information please contact 02 6672 2042

Gundica Marjana Saturday, 1 July

7am Srimad-Bhagavatam (in the temple courtyard)
8am Darshan
5-7am **Brahmanas** are invited to clean the altar

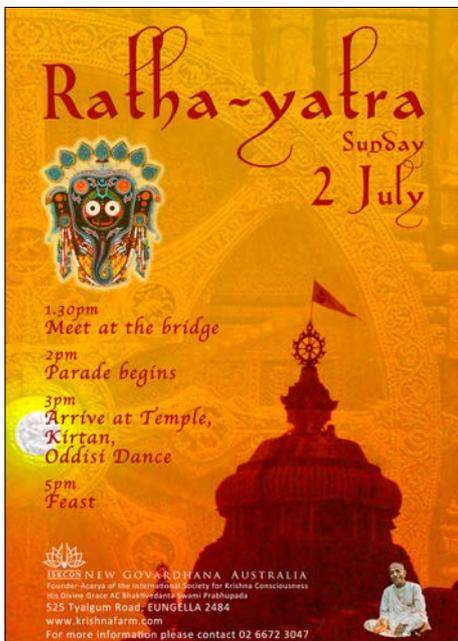
Everyone is invited to:

5-7am Clean the deities cupboards
9am-1pm Clean the pujari room
2-4pm Clean the deity kitchen
1.30pm Pizza and pasta feast for all participants

As the associates of Lord Chaitanya cleansed the Gundica temple, we can also cleanse our hearts by cleaning the temple of Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari.

All welcome!

Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari Installation Anniversary Sunday, 16 July

Ratha-yatra
Sunday
2 July

1.30pm Meet at the bridge
2pm Parade begins
3pm Arrive at Temple, Kirtan, Odissi Dance
5pm Feast

ISKCON NEW GOVARDHANA AUSTRALIA
525 Tyalgum Road, EUNGELLA 2484
www.krishnafarm.com
For more information please contact 02 6672 2042

Ratha-yatra Sunday, 2 July

1.30pm Meet at the bridge
2pm Parade begins
3pm Arrive at Temple, Kirtana, Odissi Dance
5pm Feast



Please join us each
Ekadasi for
Srimad-Bhagavatam
class given by His Divine
Grace Srila Prabhupada.
These classes will
feature subtitles.

Darshan arati 7am
Class 7.30am

Bhaktividya Purna Swami 30 July – 4 August

For more details as they become available, please check www.krishnafarm.com.au

JULY CALENDAR

(from Vaishnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

- 1 Sat Gundica Marjana (observed today)
- 2 Sun Ratha-yatra (observed today)
- 4 Tue Ekadasi (not suitable for fasting)
- 5 Wed Dvadasi – Sayana Ekadasi (suitable for fasting)
Vyanjuli Mahadvadasi
- 6 Thu Dvadasi – Break fast 6.32am – 7.24am
- 9 Sun Sanatana Gosvami – disappearance
1st month Caturmasya (fasting from green leafy vegetables)
- 14 Fri Gopala Bhatta Gosvami – disappearance
- 15 Sat Radha Govardhanadhari – Installation anniversary
- 16 Sun Radha Govardhanadhari – Installation anniversary (observed today)
- 17 Mon Lokanatha Gosvami – disappearance
- 18 Tue Incorporation of ISKCON in New York
- 20 Thu Kamika Ekadasi (suitable for fasting)
Trisprsa Mahadvadasi
- 21 Fri Trayodasi – Break fast 6.35am – 10.07am
- 27 Thu Raghunnandana Thakura – disappearance
Vamsidasa Babaji – disappearance

HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA!



Photography: Trevor Gore

Daily at various locations
Contact **Garuda dasa** for details
garuda108das@hotmail.com

Sunday Mornings
Northern NSW & Gold Coast
Visnujana dasa 0498 141 021